

LISTING OF CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listing of the claims:

Claims 1-20 (Cancelled)

21. (New) A device for clamping and ablating cardiac tissue comprising:

first and second jaws, the jaws being relatively movable between a first open position and a second clamped position, the jaws having opposed clamping surfaces, each clamping surface having a width;

a first elongated conductive ablation member carried by the first jaw;

a second elongated conductive ablation member carried by the second jaw;

the first and second conductive ablation members being adapted to be connected to a bipolar RF energy source;

each conductive ablation member having a surface contoured to engage tissue clamped between the jaws without cutting and positioned to provide an ablation line through tissue which is substantially narrower than the width of the clamping surface; and

each jaw comprising at least three distinct elements, an elongated support member supporting substantially the entire length of its associated conductive ablation member, the first or second elongated conductive ablation member, and an insulator disposed between the conductive member and the support member.

22. (New) The device of claim 21 wherein the ablation members are between approximately 3 to 8 cm in length and approximately 0.12 to 0.6 mm in width.

23. (New) The device of claim 21 in which the insulator is supported by the support member and the conductive member is supported by the insulator.

24. (New) The device of claim 22 in which the conductive member is a wire.

25. (New) The device of claim 21 in which the conductive member is a wire.

26. (New) The device of claim 24 in which the wire is supported by the insulator.

27. (New) The device of claim 25 in which the wire is supported by the insulator.

28. (New) The device of claim 22 in which the insulator is supported by the support member and the conductive member is supported by the insulator.

29. (New) The device of claim 21 in which the clamping surfaces of the conductive ablation members are convex.

30. (New) The device of claim 21 in which each conductive ablation member defines an interior bore.

31. (New) The device of claim 21 in which each conductive ablation member defines a generally annular cross-sectional shape.